

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 04924 061026Z

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 SP-02

SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 FEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, JA

SUBJ: REACTION TO MITRE CORP NUCLEAR ISSUES REPORT

REF: TOKYO 4765

1. JAPANESE READERS OF THE MITRE CORP. REPORT HAVE BEGUN TO REVEAL TO THE PRESS WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE CONTRADICTIONS FOUND:

A. REPORT OVERSTATES BY FACTOR OF THREE AMOUNT OF URANIUM RESERVES CONSIDERED TO BE AVAILABLE AS REPORTED BY OECD NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY. IN ADDITION, NO REALLY NEW INFORMATION IS PRESENTED IN THE RESOURCE SECTION WHICH CONVINCINGLY ARGUES THAT MORE URANIUM IS AVAILABLE THAN WAS PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED. THE SUBSTANCE OF THE RESOURCE ARGUMENT IS THAT MORE EXPLORATION SHOULD BE DONE AND PROBABLY MORE URANIUM MIGHT BE FOUND. BUT THIS DEGREE OF UNCERTAINTY HARDLY ARGUES FOR POSTPONING THE FBR DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. THE TIME AVAILABLE--SHOULD THERE BE EVEN SEVERAL MORE DECADES WORTH OF URANIUM THAN PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED-- DOES NOT CALL FOR SLOWING DOWN THE BREEDER PROGRAM SINCE ITS COMMERCIAL AVAILABILITY IS NOT EXPECTED FOR 20-30 YEARS ON THE PREVIOUS SCHEDULE, ASSUMING A POSITIVE DETERMINATION TO GO AHEAD WERE MADE IN 1986.

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 04924 061026Z

B. JUDGMENT THAT IAEA SAFEGUARDS INSPECTIONS ARE NOT EFFECTIVE CAN LEAD READERS TO CONCLUDE THAT NPT ITSELF IS NOT EFFECTIVE. REPORT PROVIDES NO PROPOSAL FOR SETTING IN PLACE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES SO THAT THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE IN 20 OR 30 YEARS, NOR DOES IT PROVIDE ANY BASIS FOR OPTIMIZING THAT A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN HUMAN BEHAVIOR WILL OCCUR SO THAT PEOPLE WILL STOP BEHAVING IRRATIONALLY.

C. PROPOSAL THAT US PROVIDE OTHER COUNTRIES WITH ASSURED SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM CANNOT BE BACKED UP BY USG, SINCE INSUFFICIENT URANIUM ENRICHMENT CAPACITY IS IN PLACE OR UNDER CONSTRUCTION. REPORT DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT FACT THAT WARS START BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS, AND THAT IF PEOPLE ARE WELL FED, BENEFICIALLY OCCUPIED AND GENERALLY SATISFIED, THEY WON'T GO TO WAR. THE THREE BASIC SOCIETAL NEEDS ARE FOOD, RESOURCES, AND ENERGY.

D. CONCLUSION THAT PLUTONIUM RECYCLE IS NOT ECONOMICAL IS NOT SUPPORTED BY ERDA COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS PUBLISHED SHORT TIME BEFORE. THE FBR PROGRAM HAS BEEN IN PROGRESS AS THE TOP PRIORITY NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN THE US (AND IN MOST OF THE OTHER NUCLEAR POWERS) FOR MORE THAN A DECADE. SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO CHANGE TO ANOTHER PROGRAM STRIKES THOSE PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE DEVOTED HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS AS CAPRICIOUS AND UNINFORMED.

E. REPORT CONSIDERED TOO ACADEMIC AND UNREALISTICALLY ABSTRACT AS FAR AS ECONOMICS AND PRACTICAL ENGINEERING ASPECTS OF NUCLEAR POWER CONCERNED.

2. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT AT LEAST THREE MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN TRANSLATING THE REPORT: MITI, JAIF, AND PNC. WE HAVE SEEN FOUR CHAPTERS AND OVERVIEW AS TRANSLATED BY PNC.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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